


Deborah A. Gist
Commissioner

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Enclosure 7c
January 19, 2012

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TO: Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Deborah A. Gist, Commissioner 

RE: Approval of the space allowance exception requested by the Newport School Committee

On June 3, 2010 the Board of Regents approved the construction of a new elementary school in Newport to replace 4 other small elementary schools. The design of this project has proceeded, while concurrently a group of concerned citizens filed an appeal focused on issues arising under the School Construction Regulations. The Petitioner's appeal was denied in part and granted in part. The portion of the appeal granted required that the size of the proposed gymnasium and cafeteria be reviewed by RIDE and any necessary space allowance guideline exceptions presented to the Board of Regents.

In response to the decision in the Melissa Pattavina, et al. v. Newport School Committee, RIDE staff has reviewed the space allowance guidelines exceptions necessary to proceed with this project as planned. The cafeteria and gymnasium have been adequately sized to adequately and efficiently serve the planned student population.

Therefore, I RECOMMEND THAT, the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approve the space allowance guidelines exception requested by the Newport School Committee.